



CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

Australian Co-Ordination Section

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June 1975.

At this time, arrangements are well under way for Australia's first ever conference on UFO's, to be known as "UFOCON ONE". The venue as everyone already knows, is the COBB & CO. MOTOR INN in Terrigal (near Gosford) N.S.W., on October 4, 5 & 6 this year.

The conference has been jointly organised by UFO Research of South Australia and A.C.O.S. Almost all major organisations and several Independent Investigators throughout Australia will be represented. There will be approximately 25 people joining in the three day activities.

Comments received from the organisations have been very favourable, such as "About time something like this happened", or "Conference of this type long overdue in Australia", etc.

We think that everyone is indeed looking forward to it, and it is a pity that two organisations have advised that they will be unable to attend. However, it is planned to record the conference, and hoped that a transcript or report will then be released at a later time.

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The following are now also members of A.C.O.S.

N.S.W.

UFO Research Network - Royal Exchange P.O. Box R32 Sydney N.S.W. 2000.

Western Australia.

Mr. S. Briggs & Mr. A. Fiannaca - 5 Treeby St Coolbellup W.A. 6163.

Mr. Briggs and Mr. Fiannaca, who are ex-committee members of the Perth UFO Research Group, have decided to go out on their own. The Perth UFO Research Group has also decided not to co-operate with A.C.O.S., and its member UFO organisations.

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A.C.O.S. has also received a letter from a Dr. R. E. Molnar at the University of N.S.W. in Sydney. Dr. Molnar, before coming to Australia was an Investigator for the Center for UFO Studies in the United States. He is a Biologist, and has offered A.C.O.S. his services whenever necessary. We sincerely welcome this kind offer of assistance.

In our last Bulletin, we mentioned that word was being awaited from an organisation in the Northern Territory, which was an astronomical society who handled UFO reports. They have advised us that their member who dealt with UFO sightings is unfortunately no longer with them, therefore they are unable to assist us. Should anyone know of a contact in the N.T., who investigates UFO reports would they please let A.C.O.S. know.

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The following is a breakdown of reports received By A.C.O.S. since our last Bulletin.

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|-----------------------------------|----|
| UFO Research (S.A.) | 1. |
| TUFOIC (Tas.) | 1. |
| VUFORS (Vic.) | 3. |
| S.Briggs & A. Fiannaca (Ind.W.A.) | 2. |

Making a total of 7 reports since March this year. It seems to be unusually quite ufowise throughout Australia. Or maybe some reports have not as yet reached us. Once again, may we suggest that you forward UFO reports to A.C.O.S. as soon as possible after investigation, as this is important to Professor Hynek's studies.

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Explaining and Explaining Away.

Objective scientific investigation of the UFO phenomenon is somewhat hampered by two opposing emotional tendencies, viz., the tendency of some investigators to want to believe that the particular case under investigation is a genuine unknown and the counter tendency among another class of investigators to desire an explanation at all costs. The first group are quite obviously uncritical in their investigations but their lack of objectivity will sooner or later show through or someone with a more critical attitude will eventually be given the report and maybe make an identification.

The second group, though is likely to prove more troublesome. Thus when a report is investigated, the object "identified" and the case filed away, it is not likely to be reopened again - why should it, once the reported UFO has been identified? But can we be sure that the official identification is the correct one?

Let me elaborate on this more by the means of a fictitious case. Suppose a report is received in which the witness claims to have observed a bright orange ball of light floating several feet above an area of swampy ground. The obvious explanation is, of course, marsh gas, and I dare say most UFO Investigators would jump to this conclusion. But would it be the correct one? At this point a serious investigator would look up past cases where this type of phenomenon has been observed and he would (if he had not already done so previously) acquaint himself with the phenomenon of marsh gas luminosity and the conditions under which this occurs. If he finds that the conditions under which this sighting in question was made were representative of those under which marsh gas lights are seen and if the object fitted the description of marsh "fire" and if the same type of object has only in the past been reported in environments and under conditions typical of the environments and conditions favourable to the occurrence of marsh "fire", THEN, the marsh gas identification looks like being correct.

If, on the other hand, he finds that conditions prevailing at the time of the alleged sighting were not similar to those usually noted at times of marsh "fires" activity OR the object reported did not have the usual characteristics of

marsh "fire" OR catalogue reports show similar objects to have been reported in (say) arid regions, or other places not conducive to marsh gas phenomenon the explanation of marsh "fire" becomes an "IRRATIONAL AND ILLOGICAL" one.

In other words each sighting (and any other event one may mention) exists in a complex situation - there is (what is known in Philosophy as) a "constellation of factors" impinging on any event, and it is this constellation which makes an event what it is, although one factor in particular is usually found to be the most important one from any one perspective. This factor is arbitrarily termed the "cause" of the phenomenon. In the case of UFOs, identification, in practice, means finding the "cause" factor in the constellation - and this is difficult as we do not know what the constellation really is! But take our hypothetical case again part of the constellation in this sighting would be :-

The object was seen near a swamp, it was seen at night it was observed by a person it was luminous, it was small, it was orange etc., etc., One of these factors (or maybe more than one) may hold the clue to the object's nature BUT (and this is very important) THAT FACTOR IS UNLIKELY TO BE FOUND BY EXAMINATION OF THIS CASE ALONE rather, the investigator must examine other similar cases and attempt to determine WHICH FACTORS IN THE CONSTELLATIONS OF ALL THESE CASES ARE COMMON, and this is not done by giving glib explanations to as many cases as possible, without attempting to determine whether such "explanations" account for all reported cases of this type.

Another problem encountered in UFO investigation is the lack of quantitative analyses in some explanations. This is especially evident in explanations of the "temperature inversion" kind. If a UFO is reported at a time when Venus is visible and a temperature inversion exists, it is usually taken as established that the report was due to a mirage or distortion of the image of that planet. But, while this is often correct, mathematical calculation has, at other times, indicated the necessity for temperature differences in the order of several thousand degrees Kelvin to produce the required effects (see Lieutenant F.G. Menkello "Quantitative Aspects of Mirages"). This is not merely a difficulty, but a complete *reductio ad absurdum*!

David Seargent.

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Cover Sheet for UFO Reports

At Professor Hynek's request, A.C.O.S. has designed a cover sheet for all UFO reports that are forwarded to it by its member organisations. This sheet will be attached to the front of the UFO reports, to assist in the sorting of reports when they reach Professor Hynek.

The following information will be shown on this cover sheet:-

A.C.O.S. reference number, Date of sighting, Time of sighting, number of witnesses Type of report (Classification), Any physical effects, Date report was received by ACOS, Report sent in by. We hope to have a copy of this cover sheet to attach to our next Bulletin due in September.

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NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES.....

Professor Hynek has asked the assistance of all Australian UFO people in supplying any CLOSE ENCOUNTER of the Second Kind (CEII) i.e. Physical Trace Cases. A Technical Report on physical traces associated with UFO sightings is being prepared, incorporating and extending Mr. Ted Phillip's long research. Ted Phillips is a specialist in the onsite investigation of physical trace cases and works closely with the Center's scientific board. The cases being studied are from Ted Phillip's files and cases which have been listed in UFOCAT. The report will be both a catalogue of cases and a statistical study.

As the Center would like to make this report as complete as possible, individuals or organisations aware of UFO reports with physical traces or effects are urged to contribute to this study. Please include the date, time, place and source of the report. Acknowledgement, of course, will be made in the final report. A very pleasant co-operative venture has been entered into with APRO by which there has been an agreement to work together on the study of physical trace cases. It has long been recognized that physical trace cases offer perhaps the greatest opportunity for the scientific study of UFO's, principally, of course because the physical evidence they leave can be analyzed. Particularly important is the determination of the mass of an object that has left its imprint on the ground. APRO has excellent facilities for such work. This determination can be made by the use of an instrument called the penetrometer, which measures the compaction of the soil at the point of contact of the object and the ground.

These reports need not necessarily be current ones, as long as they have not appeared in overseas publications. These reports are to go into the special report that Professor Hynek is collating. Anyone who can assist in this way, please send the reports to ACOS and mark them CEII.

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A letter received from Professor Hynek dated April 1st 1975.

Dear Friends,

Although the Center for UFO Studies is not much more than one year old, it has developed more rapidly than originally scheduled. As a consequence, my personal involvement is also ahead of schedule.

To meet the demands of the burgeoning work of the Center, I asked the Dean to be released of the duties of the Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University. I pointed out that I have been Chairman for fifteen years and have "paid my dues". The Dean has granted my request, and I am now free to devote much more time to the Center. I remain, of course, as Professor of Astronomy at Northwestern University, and will continue to devote time to my own research and teaching. But the pressure of being "administrator on hand" will be gone. I recommended Dr. John Bahng as my successor, and he is now the new Chairman.

May I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your continued support of the Center for UFO Studies, Australian Co-Ordination Section.

Sincerely,

(signed)

J. Allen Hynek.

FBI Co-Operation.

The February 1975 issue of the FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN, the official publication (circulation 80,000) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States department of Justice, including a long article about the Center for UFO Studies.

The article begins by telling how law enforcement personnel can be of assistance to the Center, and discusses several cases in which police have witnessed UFO's. It describes the origin of UFO CENTRAL, discussing the co-operation of Mr. James Slavin, Director of Northwestern University's Traffic Institute, in helping the Center to originally distribute several thousand directives to police chiefs and sheriffs across the country. It stresses the official use of this number, and lists particularly questions a law officer should ask a witness. It gives the history of the Center and of Public opinion. There is a discussion of UFO types and of common misperception.

A banner heading the article states: "A toll-free "hot-line" for the use of law enforcement agencies has been established by the Center for UFO Studies. UFO reports made to these agencies can be relayed to the Center for handling and study. The toll-free number (not for general public use) can be obtained by law enforcement agencies by writing to the Center...." This article brought over one hundred inquiries the first weeks after its distribution. These requests were received from not only Police and Sheriff's Departments, but from Departments of the Army, Navy, Air Force, U.S. Dept, of the Interior National Park Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the United States Border Patrol as well. The requests have come from all areas of the United States.

Clarence Kelley, Director of the FBI, wrote to the Center saying "... I am sure that the information contained in this interesting article will be of value to law enforcement officers throughout the country, and my associates and I want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your co-operation." Richard Held, Special Agent in Charge (Chicago), wrote, " Your article in the FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN has received widespread coverage, and it is my hope that it will immeasurably assist us in our mutual problems.

Not only agencies interested in obtaining the UFO CENTRAL number have written, but many law enforcement persons have written expressing an interest in becoming involved in field investigations for the Center. The expertise of a law officer in investigations has been found to be a certain attribute when applied to the investigation of UFO reports.

So this shows the co-operation that the Center has received from official agencies and law enforcement agencies in the United States, and it is hoped to get the same co-operation from ALL such agencies throughout the world eventually.

Although in Australia, co-operation between official agencies and the serious scientific UFO research organisations does seem to be picking up, and it is only by this mutual co-operation that we can only hope to getting closer to some answers for the small percentage of "unexplained".

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Australian Sightings

Reference V004

VUFORS(Victoria.)

Mr. R. H. and his wife J. of Clayton North in Victoria on the 28th February this year between 8.30 and 9p.m. were drinking tea in the kitchen of their home when they both heard a strange humming sound. Mr. H. said that whilst the pitch was extremely low, the sound had a great penetrating effect. What drew his attention was the fact that the sound was unlike any other he had known. The humming ceased after about a minute and a half. By this time he had reached his front door with the intention of locating the source of the sound. It ceased as he reached the front door. Stepping outside he saw 8 people standing on the other side of the street watching something. Following their gaze, he saw an object hovering at an elevation of about 30 degrees in a NE direction. The shape of an elongated trapezium, with flashing lights emanating from the entire length of the object. Mr. H. estimated its size to be comparable with a cigarette packet at arms length, but could not give an estimate of its distance. There was a clear sky at the time. His wife J. also heard the sound but followed her husband outside after about a minute. After a few seconds the couple returned inside. Later in the evening Mr. H. went outside again to lock his car, and the object could no longer be seen.

A statement by the VUFORS Investigator as follows:

"After leaving Mr. H. I went to the other side of the road to try and find some of the other people who were seen observing the incident. The people were not able to help me."

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Reference WA004

S. Briggs and A. Fiannaco (West Aust.)

Mr. M. of Como, Perth, Plant Operator, was in the yard at his place of employment at 2.55 a.m. on 4th June this year, parking a truck, when he saw a bright light, 25 degrees from the horizon in the SW. The object was saucer shaped, large in size, white and yellow, but this was blurred owing to the rotation of the object. It was moving very slowly and on a straight course, rotating in a clockwise direction fairly rapidly. The moon was seen just rising, less than $\frac{1}{4}$, patchy clouds, slight wind and a fair amount of stars. Investigations by Messrs. Bell and Fiannaco revealed that there were no balloons released by the Met Bureau at the time. A Jumbo jet landed at Perth Airport at 2.50 a.m. At nearby Jandakot airport, no planes either landed or took off. Several other people reported the object at the same time to radio stations, but these were unable to trace.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

In our last Bulletin, we requested a copy off all organisation of their Report Forms and investigations forms. To date, we have only received two. Once again we ask you to send us a copy of the forms you are using.

H. Griesberg
D. Seargent.

Co-Ordinators.